This project would not be a success without the valuable input provided by the public, key stakeholders, the Van Valkenburgh design team, and our numerous partners including the Secret Service and the Federal Highway Administration, which is now managing the construction effort. The end result is a design that successfully satisfies the key criteria to incorporate necessary security measures while respecting the Avenue's historical character. Furthermore, the proposed design is easily reversible and does not preclude reopening Pennsylvania Avenue to vehicular traffic in the future.

For More Information

Further information on this project is available from Elizabeth Miller, Plan and Project Implementation Division, 401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20576; email elizabeth.miller@ncpc.gov; or fax 202 482-7272.

An uncluttered sidewalk, featuring newly designed bollards, will provide a welcoming environment in front of Riggs Bank.





The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld Secretary of Defense

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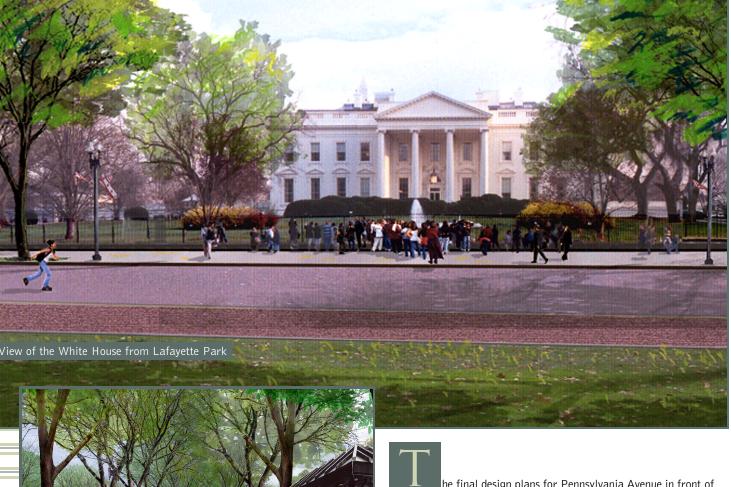
The Honorable Tom Davis Chairman, House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Linda W. Cropp Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Executive Director Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP SEPTEMBER 2003

ENNSYLVANIA AVENUE At the white house

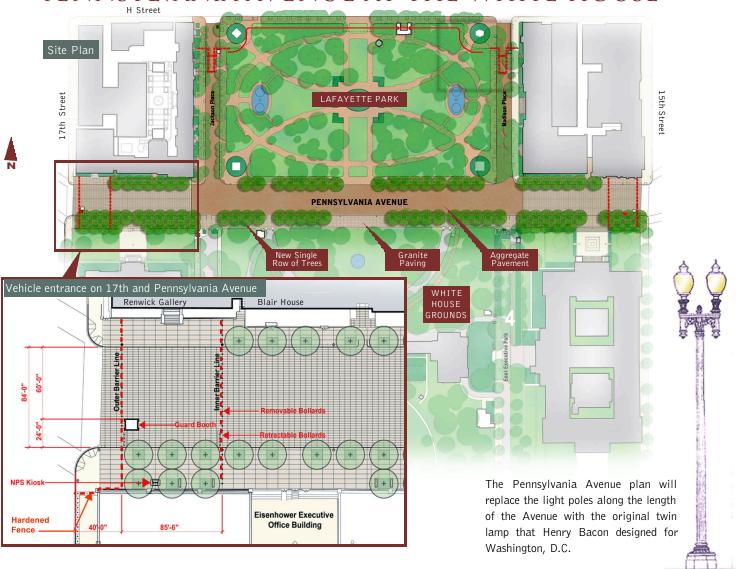


he final design plans for Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House promise to restore the Avenue to a beautiful and dignified public plaza, befitting of one of the nation's most prominent and visited destinations. The plan, created by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, will rid the famous street of the ad hoc security barriers currently scattered on Pennsylvania Avenue, and will improve the quality of President's Park. The design enhances the beauty, civic space, and visual quality of the Avenue, and creates a setting appropriate to the White House and President's Park.



A double row of trees will enhance the pedestrian experience along this south section of Pennsylvania Aven

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT THE WHITE HOUSE



The beauty, civic design and visual quality of this special place will be enhanced, creating a setting that addresses security concerns but befits the symbolic importance of the White House.

The design's central elements include new tree planting and site furnishings; new paving materials; new guard booths; a combination of retractable, removable and fixed bollards; and a route for a planned transit system.

Tree Row and Site Furnishings

A new planting scheme of American Elms is proposed along the length of Pennsylvania Avenue in place of existing concrete bollards and trees. The scheme of more than 85 new trees will consist of: a single row of street trees along the north and south curbs of Pennsylvania Avenue between Jackson and Madison Places; a double row of trees along the south curb of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) and the Treasury Department; and a single row of trees along a portion of the north curb line of the Avenue west of Jackson Place and east of Madison Place. The trees will provide a welcome canopy for pedestrians and provide a more dignified view of the White House grounds.

All of the existing light fixtures along the length of the Avenue will be replaced with new twin-headed lamps originally designed for Washington, D.C., by Henry Bacon in 1923. They will be painted light graygreen, to match their original color. A series of new slender granite benches, of the same granite as the paving, will be placed in front of the EEOB and the Treasury Department.







A New Surface

To help unify Lafayette Park with the White House, a more natural looking paving material is proposed for the central portion of Pennsylvania Avenue and Jackson and Madison Places. The durable aggregate pavement is similar to that used at Buckingham Palace in London. This paved surface will slope slightly upward to emphasize the raised elevation at the White House. At 15th and 17th Streets, large granite pavers will accentuate entry to the precinct. A mix of gray- and pink-toned granites is proposed.

Security Booths and Bollards

The Van Valkenburgh team has designed security booths that complement the classical architecture found along the Avenue but that also reflect a more contemporary design. The booths, which will be placed at each entry point, have a granite base, a lead-coated copper roof, and cast iron columns painted to match the light fixtures. Vehicular access will primarily be accommodated at checkpoints located at Jackson and Madison Places.

In place of bulky planter pots, the Van Valkenburgh plan employs specially designed bollards, including a simple fluted, 36-inch graygreen bollard for use on Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th and 17th Streets. A similar design will be used for all retractable bollards. Bollards on Jackson and Madison Places will match the existing 42-inch Presidential bollard in shape and color and will tie into the existing bollard line in Lafayette Park. Removable bollards will accommodate the Inaugural Parade. The bollards will allow for free pedestrian movement, maintain a visually open environment, and respect the character of the street.

Downtown Circulator

The Circulator, a proposed supplement to the downtown transit system, is an important component to re-establish cross-town connectivity. Envisioned as a quick hop-on, hop-off shuttle service with multiple routes, it can be accommodated without detracting from the pedestrian character of the Avenue.